

Maldives:

President: Mohammed Nasheed

Government: republic (People's Majlis)

Capital: Malé 81600 people

population: 896334

growth rate:-0.1

infant mortality: 29.5/1000

birth rate: 14.5/1000

life expectancy: 73.9 years

population density: 1263 people per km squared

total area:300 sq. km

monetary unit: rufiyaa, 100 laari

language: Dhivehi

national day: first day of the month of Rabeuu al-Awwal

global warming and rising sea levels is a threat because no part of island is more than six feet above water.

History: was first inhabited in 5BC by buddhist seafarers from India and Sri Lanka. Was part of Portuguese colony Ceylon until 1887, when it came under British protection, and finally gained independence in 1948. Islam came to the country in 1153.

recent event: the tsunami left 82 people dead, 79 islands without drinking water, and 14 islands uninhabitable, so the people had to move permanently.

It became a multiparty democracy in 2005, modeling the government after that of the US with a president and a prime minister etc. However, the referendum to demand this is said to have been rigged. The first multiparty elections were held in 2008.

Human Rights:

Human Rights Committee of the Maldives: to provide human rights, democracy and rule of law for everyone. Its mission is to protect and promote human rights under the Maldives constitution, Islam Shari'ah, and international conventions ratified by the maldives.

Terms of the HRCM:

created as an independent legal organization, which can sue people as well as be sued.

The primary goals were:

(a) to protect, preserve and promote human rights in the Maldives in accordance with Islamic Shari'ah and the Constitution of the Maldives;

(b) to protect, preserve and promote human rights in the Maldives in accordance with regional and international treaties that are binding on the Maldives;

(c) to assist and encourage non-governmental organizations in creating awareness and in promoting human rights.

(Human Rights Commission for the Maldives: About us. Retrieved Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009, from [www.hrcm.org](http://www.hrcm.org))

Consists of five members and was founded on the Paris principles of 1991

the government is sometimes said to be too eager to commit to international human rights.

### **Covenants, conventions and declarations:**

International covenant on civil and political rights

international covenant economic, social and cultural rights

UN convention against torture

Optional protocol to the UN covenant against torture

optional protocol on the international covenant on civil and political rights

optional protocol to the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women

convention of the rights of the child

convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women

has fielded a candidate for the UN Committee against torture

jails are checked by the Red Cross

close dialogue with amnesty international

government invites all special procedures, rapporteurs and mandates of the UN Human Rights Committee to visit the jails and the Maldives

supporter of the UN Democracy Fund, and began active participation in the movement New and Restored Democracies.

Working on improving the UN Convention against corruption

discriminatory: a non-muslim may not become a citizen of the maldives

state provides education (primary and secondary). Islam is part of this education, as well as respect for human rights

highly religious, with some forms of extremism, gang violence

Shari'ah implicated if there is no law nor constitutional right regarding the case

the president appoints the judges of the supreme court and the Chief Justice of the Maldives

Judges must be Muslim of Sunni school

recently: redundant politicians are being cut, loans taken out by the previous government need to be paid off, Ramadan creates unrest in Auddua